

# OE-254 ANTENNA

# ADVICE



Dear Editor,

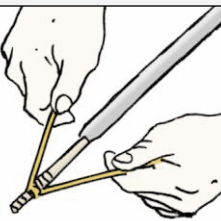
Before erecting an OE-254 antenna, the threads on the antenna elements must be cleaned and lubed. If not, corrosion quickly forms and makes it practically impossible to disassemble the antenna.

In the past, PS has recommended cleaning each element with the antenna's guide rope by looping the rope around the element threads and pulling it back and forth. This is good advice, because the friction does clean the connecting area. A small arms bore cleaner also works well to get the threads clean.

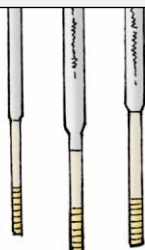
PS has also recommended using water-displacing compound, NSN 6850-00-142-9409, and silicone grease, NSN 6850-00-880-7616, on the threads.

The next step has been to wrap each connection with a layer of electrical tape, NSN 5970-00-419-4291, and here is where I disagree a bit.

Use rope to clean threads



Use WDC and silicone to lube threads



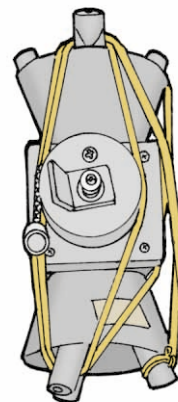
Electrical tape dries in the sun, shrinks and wears out. I recommend coaxial cable connector sealant. You can get it at your local electronics or automotive store.

Coaxial cable connector sealant is also the stuff to use to weatherproof the joint between the coax cable and the feedcone. It seems to last forever and once removed, the area looks like new.

Also, silicone grease, NSN 6850-00-880-7616, should be used on the cable/feedcone connection before the COAX-SEAL is applied.

One more thing: Do not use wire or any electrical conductor to reinforce the feedcone. It will degrade your signal and could short out your antenna.

Rope is OK, but no wire!



Brooke Clarke  
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From the desk  
of the Editor



Some good maintenance advice from an OE-254 antenna maintainer who knows his stuff. As a rule, PS does not endorse purchasing off-the-shelf items when the

supply system has the TM required items available. However, in this case, keeping the antennas in top-notch shape and making the assembling and disassembling job much easier takes precedence and we can recommend a trip to your local hardware or radio supply store.